

2. **LEGISLATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

A. **National Ocean Policy and Leadership Act (S.2647)**

On July 13, 2004, Senator Ernest Hollings introduced, for himself and Senators Judd Gregg, Daniel Inouye, and Ted Stevens, the National Ocean Policy and Leadership Act (S.2647). The purposes of this legislation are to: (1) set forth a national policy relating to oceans and atmosphere, and, through an organic act, formally to establish the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the lead federal agency concerned with ocean and atmospheric matters; (2) establish in NOAA, by statute, the authorities, functions, and powers relating to the conservation, management, and protection of the oceans and atmosphere which have previously been established by statute or reorganization plan; (3) set forth the duties and responsibilities of NOAA, and the principal officers of NOAA; (4) establish a mechanism for federal leadership and coordinated action on national ocean and atmospheric priorities that are essential to the economic and environmental security of the United States; and (5) enhance federal partnerships with the state and local governments with respect to ocean activities, including management of ocean resources and identification of appropriate opportunities for policy-making and decision-making at the state and local level.

A copy of this legislation, as well as information on its current status, can be obtained from the U.S. Library of Congress Internet Web Site: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

B. **Ocean Research Coordination and Advancement Act (S.2648)**

On July 13, 2004, Senator Ernest Hollings introduced, for himself and Senators Daniel Inouye and Ted Stevens, the Ocean Research Coordination and Advancement Act (S.2648). The legislation would foster: (1) development and implementation of education and training programs that are essential to building a national scientific and technological workforce that meets the needs of growing ocean and coastal economies and better prepares the United States for competition in the global economy; (2) a coordinated program of education and basic and applied research that would assist the United States and the world to further knowledge of the oceans and the global climate system, ensure homeland and national security, develop innovative marine products, improve weather and climate forecasts, strengthen management of marine and coastal resources, increase the safety and efficiency of maritime operations, and protect the environment and mitigate man-made and natural hazards; and (3) increased federal cooperation and investment that are essential to build on ocean and coastal research and education activities taking place within numerous federal, state, and local agencies, academic institutions, and industries. The legislation would strengthen related programs administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

A copy of this legislation, as well as information on its current status, can be obtained from the U.S. Library of Congress Internet Web Site: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

C. Reducing Crime and Terrorism at America's Seaports Act of 2004 (S.2653)

On July 14, 2004, Senator Joseph Biden introduced, for himself and Senators George Allen, Ernest Hollings, Arlen Specter, Dianne Feinstein, and Jon Kyl, the Reducing Crime and Terrorism at America's Seaports Act of 2004 (S.2653). This legislation addresses such issues as: (1) entry by false pretenses to any seaport; (2) criminal sanctions for failure to heave to, obstruction of boarding, or providing false information; (3) use of a dangerous weapon or explosive on a passenger vessel; (4) criminal sanctions for violence against maritime navigation, placement of destructive devices, and malicious dumping; (5) transportation of dangerous materials and terrorists; (6) destruction or interference with vessels or maritime facilities; (7) theft of interstate or foreign shipments or vessels; (8) increased penalties for non-compliance with manifest requirements; (9) stowaways on vessels or aircraft; and (10) bribery affecting port security.

A copy of this legislation, as well as information on its current status, can be obtained from the U.S. Library of Congress Internet Web Site: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

D. Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (H.R.4900)

On July 22, 2004, Representative Jim Greenwood introduced, for himself and Representatives Sam Farr, Curt Weldon, and Tom Allen, the Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (H.R.4900). This legislation would establish a national policy for the oceans, strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and establish a National Oceans Council among other things.

The purpose of H.R.4900 is to secure, for present and future generations of people of the United States, the full range of environmental, economic, educational, social, cultural, nutritional, and recreational benefits of healthy marine ecosystems by: (1) establishing a comprehensive national oceans policy that is binding on all covered actions that may significantly affect U.S. ocean waters and ocean resources; (2) requiring covered actions to be consistent with the purposes and policies of this Act; (3) mandating that clear standards be set against which compliance with the national oceans policy can be measured; (4) providing a mechanism through which compliance with this Act can be assured; (5) consolidating and restructuring federal ocean programs to support this Act; and (6) promoting ecologically sustainable ocean resource management by strengthening and empowering ocean governance.

A copy of this legislation, as well as information on its current status, can be obtained from the U.S. Library of Congress Internet Web Site: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.